

Dr. August Battles
Attending Veterinarian
Director of Animal Care Services

Cristina Merricks
Editor

ANIMAL CARE SERVICES NEWSLETTER

Health Science Center
Communicore CB-159
P.O. Box 100006
Gainesville, FL 32610-0006
Telephone: 352-392-2977
Fax: 352-392-3766

Volume 7, Issue 1

March 2007

Import Requirements for Rodents Moving to Cancer-Genetics Animal Colony

Beginning 1 March 2007, the majority of rodents from the University of Florida animal colonies will be required to go through a quarantine period before they can be moved into any of the rodent colonies in the Cancer and Genetics Research Complex (CGRC). The only exceptions will include the rodents maintained in an SPF facility, SPF 2 in Communicore and the Pathology colony. In addition, all rodents transferring to the breeding colony, maintained by ACS, from other rooms in CGRC will be quarantined and tested for pathogens before moving to the main ACS breeding colony.



Quarantine and testing of sentinel animals will be at no cost to the investigators through June 2007.

Beginning 1 July 2007, there will be new quarantine charges for the following movement of rodents:

- 1) to bring rodents into the ACS maintained breeding colony from any location except an approved vendor.
- 2) into the CGRC rodent colony from other colonies on the UF campus, except SPF colonies.

Animals ordered from approved commercial vendors will continue to be delivered to the CGRC colonies with no additional quarantine requirements.

The new quarantine for rodents going to CGRC colonies is necessary to protect the rodents currently housed in the facility. This is especially important with the construction of the Communicore building. Construction and the movement of animals will increase the risk of pathogens gaining entry to an animal colony. All ACS animal colonies are checked for rodent pathogens quarterly. It is

possible for a significant pathogen to enter one of the rodent colonies on campus that may not be identified for weeks to months. During that time, infected rodents may be moved into the colonies at CGRC. The CGRC rodent colonies are going to be maintained as the most protected from rodent pathogens on campus. Rodents can be housed in other facilities if the research laboratory must work with the rodents before they finish quarantine.

Quarantine normally takes 6 weeks. The quarantine length of time may be shortened to 3 or 4 weeks if you can provide immune competent rodents from your colony that can be sacrificed for a health check.

The charges beginning 1 July 2007 will be:

- 1) \$150.00 for setup to quarantine and test sentinels for rodents moving to the CGRC colonies from other campus locations (except SPF) plus per diems, or from any location into the ACS maintained breeding colony.
- 2) \$325.00 setup to quarantine and test sentinels for rodents imported to campus from a collaborator (non approved vendor) plus per diems. This represents a 3% increase from last year.

Please contact Dr. Joan Cole if you have any questions or need assistance with the movement of your rodents at 392-7697 or via e-mail at joancole@ufl.edu.

Monitoring of Autoclave Function at ACS Diagnostic Lab

How sure are we that the surgical packs we use are really sterile, or the infectious materials generated in our laboratories have been completely rendered free of viable microorganisms? One way of attaining a good level of confidence regarding compliance with asepsis during surgery and maintenance of a safe working environment in the laboratory is by regularly monitoring the instrument

used for the sterilization process – the autoclave. Monitoring the function of the autoclave should be done at least once every 40 hours. There are several ways of measuring autoclave function efficiency. One of the most reliable methods is done by placing biological indicators in the form of spore-forming bacterial preparations packaged in ampules in the same batch of packs to be autoclaved. After the sterilization process, the bacterial ampule is retrieved and immediately brought to the laboratory for incubation at 56°C for two days and the reading of reactions every 24 hours to check for viability. For research groups that lack the necessary equipment to read this test, the ACS diagnostic laboratory provides the service for a fee of \$10.00 per test to cover the cost of the biological indicator and labor. To make testing arrangements, please e-mail Linda Thomas (lthom@ufl.edu) or Bernadette Zamora (bzamora@ufl.edu), or call 846-1383.

Per Diem Rates

Animal Care Services operates on a cost recovery basis. Per Diems are calculated based on the Cost Analysis and Rate Setting Manual for Animal Research facilities produced by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). They include feed (unless otherwise specified), bedding, expendable supplies, labor, caging equipment and equipment wear and times needed to perform animal care tasks. Per Diem costs do not recover veterinary medical costs or special research design requirements beyond standard LAR set up. Rates are evaluated and adjusted yearly to reflect salary, feed, bedding, and supply increases.

From Being Lost to Finding the Lost

Sherry Scruggs and her K-9 partner, Abby, were faced with a unique situation. In October of 2004, Abby was picked up as a stray walking the streets of Michigan. On December 20 of the same year, she arrived at the University of Florida to join the other dogs being used by The North American Veterinary Conference to teach diagnostic techniques to veterinarians from around the world.

Abby was a typical, young, out-of-control Labrador Retriever. She was a vet techs nightmare. Although she was a very happy and kind dog, it took 3 people to restrain her working around her kicking feet and her mouth that grabbed anything within reach.

While working with the dogs at the veterinary conference in Orlando, Abby caught Sherry's eye with her positive attitude and the high confidence she displayed in the unfamiliar surroundings. Sherry has been training and deploying with her search and rescue dogs for 13 years. She had just retired her 11 year old Labrador Retriever and was not looking for another. Then Abby appeared.

Abby was spayed and started her new career just 4 short months after being lost in Michigan. She now has a limited registry with AKC so that she can compete in the organization's activities with the exception of the confirmation ring. Abby's first search discipline was area search. This discipline uses K-9's to locate lost persons in urban and wooded areas. She passed the area search certification given by the National Association of



Sherry poses with her beautiful lab one afternoon after work.

Search and Rescue in 11 months after beginning training. Presently, Sherry is continuing to add difficulty to the search problems in order to solidify Abby's

training. In addition, Abby shows a great potential for tracking and trailing, and many times uses the victim's tracks to locate them. The few times that Sherry has worked Abby in a harness and 30 foot lead have convinced her that Abby will be a K-9 worth the time spent on training in this discipline. Currently, Abby is training in disaster work. She is one busy girl who is focused and channels her energy and drive into performing her work.

Infectious Disease Suite Keys

Due to the on-going renovation of ACS barrier and biocontainment facilities, the 76 Suite will be shut down for an extended period of time. If you or your staff have been issued keys to any of the rooms within the 76 Suite, it is very unlikely they will be of any use in the future.



Please return these key to Charlie Mason in room CB-158 at your convenience. For more information, Charlie can be reached at 392-9536 or via email at camason@ufl.edu. These keys will be stamped with "S105G, S106G, S107G, S108G, S109G, S110G, or S111G". Thank you for your assistance.

Breeding Colony Update

The breeding suite at Cancer and Genetics is in the process of converting its billing system from Topaz to Radio Frequency Identification system (RFID). Staff will spend less time on scanning and more time on managing your colonies. Because staff members will not be scanning each cage manually, errors should rarely be experience. A computer will scan whole rooms at once and store the data electronically.

ACS has begun placing breeding animals on the new breeding protocol, E719. Animals will not be deducted from experimental protocols until they are transferred to your laboratories and other facilities. Once ACS is chosen to manage colonies, PIs will no longer have to renew or rewrite expiring protocols.

How does the breeding staff keep track of all the colonies they are managing? ACS maintains all genotyping and colony information on detailed spreadsheets within a shared server in a highly organized manner. Each strain on an animal rack is given a designated colored dot. Our goal is to keep one PI's mice to a half rack, although it is not always feasible. We keep the cage card request hard copies on the cages in case the white bar coded cards fall off. This precaution allows the tracking of the location of cages via colored dots and requisition numbers. The same colored dots are not used on a half rack: If a strain is moved to a rack possessing the same designated colored dot, one of the strain's color is changed to that which is currently unused. All staff members can access the breeding database at the same time, yet the database is able to ensure that ID numbers generated for mice are unique at all times. Sheets are kept in the rooms describing the identification methods for each different strain and PI.

The Cancer-Genetics Animal Facility (CGAF) breeding colony isolator room is now completed.

Eight 3' isolators are available for PIs who wish to house their colonies at the highest level of protection. Beginning 1 March 2007, PIs not currently breeding their mice in the breeding suite at CGAF, but wish to have ACS manage their colonies from any other facility; will have to subject mice to a quarantine period of 6 weeks. This new process does not apply to existing breeding suite colonies or animals sent to ACS from approved vendors. For more information on quarantine procedures, please contact Joan Cole at 392-7697 or via email at joancole@ufl.edu.

Now that all occupied isolators have been transferred out of room F to the new isolator room, room F is the last available holding room. The breeding colony staff look to expand the existing colonies to complete the occupancy of the 3 other animal rooms by the end of March 2007. Those PIs wishing to have ACS manage their colonies going forward may have their animals temporarily quarantined in room F on ventilated racks or in an isolator, depending on where the mice originated. Beginning 1 July, there will be charges for quarantine. Ryan Fiske, ACS Breeding Colony Manager, can be reached at 273-8324 or via email at rfiske@ufl.edu.

San Blas Marathon

Dr. Juan Jordan, ACS' new Clinical Veterinarian, participated in a true Puerto Rican escapade in the city of Coamo. He ran in a yearly world-class professional marathon that attracts the best competitive runners in the world. As his fourth time



Juan, pictured on the right, rejoices after completing the race.

competing, Juan finished in the first half of approximately 800-1000 runners. A marathon brings best and worst out of us. Lucky for us, Dr. Jordan's endurance was tested. If ever an emergency occurs, we know we always have a speedy help.

Animal Care Services (ACS) publishes this newsletter to communicate with those who use or provide support to the animal care program at the University of Florida. This newsletter contains various items of importance to animal users. We use e-mail as our primary method of distributing the newsletter, but also have copies available in the animal facilities. Please print this newsletter and distribute it to members of your department. If you did

not receive this newsletter by email and would like to be added to the email list, please send an email message to cmerrick@vpha.health.ufl.edu with "Add to ACS Newsletter" as the subject. This and all past issues of the newsletter can be accessed at <http://acs.ufl.edu/newsletter.shtml>.